FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES AND HOME SCHOOLS

1. What may a school district require of a parent who wishes to exempt a school age child from school attendance?

Parents shall annually submit a signed affidavit¹ available at the resident school district to the school age child's school district of residence stating that the child will attend home school and will receive instruction in the subjects required by the Utah State Board of Education and for the same length of time minors are required to be taught in public schools, as determined by the Utah State Board of Education rules.

2. What is the State Board of Education requirement for days and hours of instruction?

Currently, R277-419, Pupil Accounting, requires schools to offer a minimum of 180 days and a minimum of 990 hours for grades 2-12 (less for K-1).

3. May the school district impose additional requirements on parents who wish to exempt a school age child from school attendance?

A school district may request additional reasonable information from a parent for purposes of exemption for home schooling. The requested information should be adequate to verify the identity of the student and may include such information as parent(s)' names, phone numbers, street address, children's date of birth, other reasonable information that allows the school/school district to confirm the student's identity and eligibility for public school attendance.

4. When a parent has submitted the signed affidavit as provided for in the statute, is a school district required to provide a certificate excusing a school age child from school attendance?

Boards excusing minors from attendance as provided by the statute shall issue a certificate stating that the minor is excused from attendance during the time specified on the certificate. Once the affidavit has been submitted, with all required information, the certificate must be provided to parent(s) within 30 days.

5. What is the responsibility of the school district for curriculum, assessment, selection of materials, evaluation of home school instruction, or designating the time and place of instruction?

¹ "Affidavit" means "a written/printed declaration or statement of facts, made voluntarily, and confirmed by the oath or affirmation of the party making it, taken before a person having authority to administer such oaths or affirmations [such as a notary public]." (Model Affidavit and Exemption Certificate for Home Instruction)

The district has no authority or responsibility relative to any of the above. In fact, the curriculum, assessment, selection of home school instruction, and the time and place of instruction are all the parent's sole responsibility.

6. May the school or district make textbooks, assessments, resource materials available to home school parents?

Yes, at the school's/district's discretion.

7. My home schooled daughter who is in 5th grade wants to attend the local school Valentines party. How should I make arrangements for her attendance?

Contact your daughter's boundary school. You can find the boundary school by calling the local school district. Most school districts have websites that provide school names and contact information. Contact a 5th grade teacher at the school (if you know one) or contact the school principal. Explain your request. Schools should be accommodating.

8. My son wants to participate in the third grade reading program. How can I arrange this?

If an (elementary) home schooled student wants to participate in "an academic activity" for a portion of the school day or on a regular basis, parent should contact the school and arrange for the student's attendance. For the child's safety and for the school's accountability, school may request parent contact information and emergency contact information prior to the child's participation. If the academic program or activity includes field trips, parent(s) may be asked to accompany the student, at the school's discretion.

9. If my 3rd grade home schooled child wants to be dually enrolled (enrollment in public school for part of the school day or for a specific school activity), what can the school request?

The school can require that the parent has filed the Affidavit described under Question #1, above. The school should explain that reading is generally scheduled from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and that the child is welcome to attend, but that the schedule may change from time to time without advance notice to parents. It is more difficult-sometimes impossible-for a parent to expect that a child can participate in "language arts" every day at exactly the same time. Both parents and teachers should be flexible and cooperative.

10. My high-school age home schooled son wants to participate in high school athletics or extracurricular activities. What rules apply?

Student may participate consistent with Utah Code Section 53A-11-102.5 and 102.6 and R277-438. Child should not be required to enroll in public school courses in addition to any classes required for participation in the activity (e.g. participation in a chorus class may require child to be enrolled in 6^{th} period Concert Choir; varsity wrestling may

require a 1st period weight training class).

11. I home school my 9th grade daughter. She takes two courses through Washington K-12, an online public school program. I would like her to take a music class and a debate class at the local high school. How can I arrange this?

Washington K-12 can claim daughter for 2/7 of the state funding amount (this is called a WPU or weighted pupil unit). Local high school can claim daughter for 2/7 of the WPU. The state pupil accounting system allows each school to claim its part of the WPU but does not allow one student to be funded for more than 7/7 of a WPU.

LINKS OF INTEREST

Minors Exempt from School Attendance Law - <u>53A-11-102</u>

Dual Enrollment Law - 53A-11-102.5

Dual Enrollment Rule - R277-438

Private School and Home School Students' Participation in Extracurricular Activities in a Public School Law - 53A-11-102.6

Pupil Accounting Rule - R277-419

Private School, Home School, Electronic High School (EHS), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Student Participation in Public School Achievement Tests Rule - R277-604